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WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Washington County Historical Society
118 East Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701

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FLASHBACK

Washington County Historical Society
Preserving the Past for the Future
Volume 54 **Winter 2004** **Number 1**

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Cover: Mettie Adams Stewart with sons James Histaspias Stewart and Charles Wesley Stewart in 1932 (Courtesy Charles Stewart).

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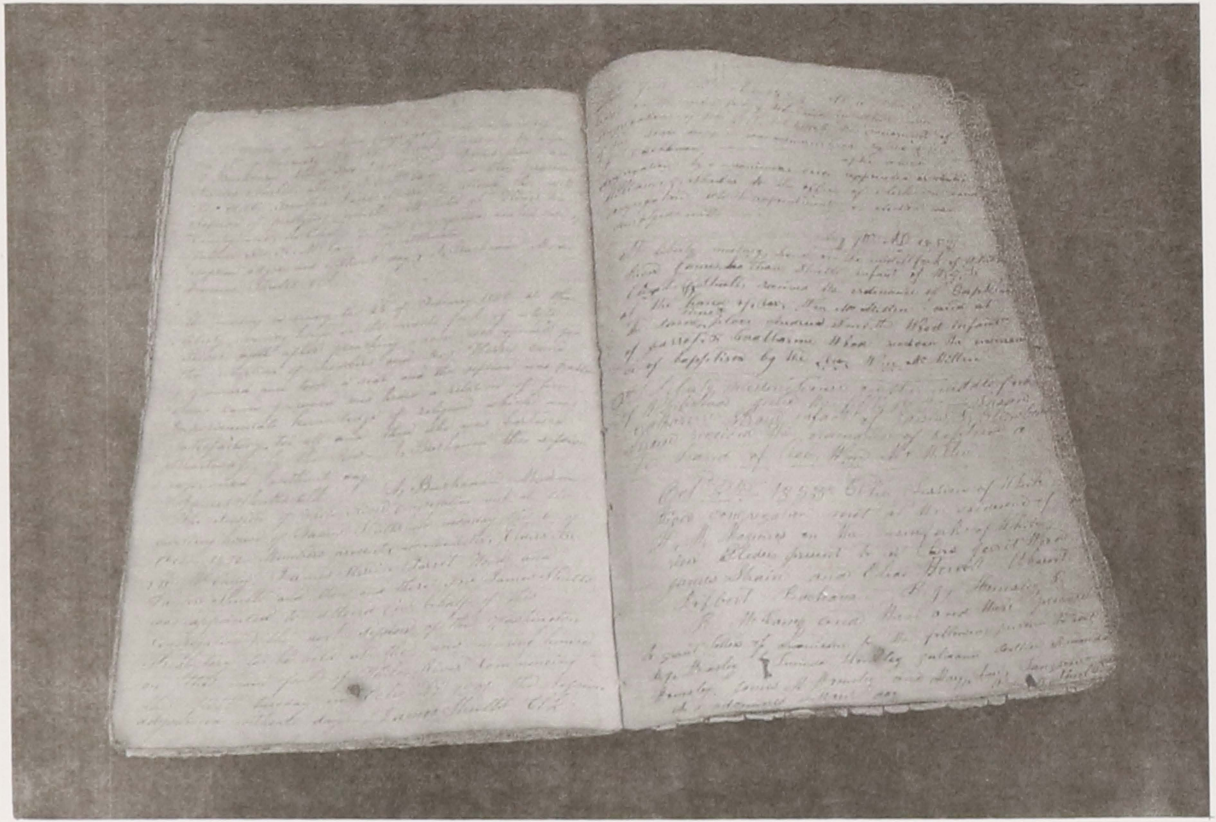

Pages from the White River Cumberland Presbyterian Church **Records,** 1831–1856. Transcription, page 20.

INTERVIEW WITH CHARLES STEWART

PATRICIA STONE

Editor's note: The following interview by Patty Stone took place October 26, 2003, at the Stewart home in Fayetteville. Charles Stewart was a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives for forty-four years. He has served as president of the Washington County Historical Society, which acknowledged his contributions by naming him a Distinguished Citizen in 2002.

PS: Let's start with your name. What is your name?
CS: Charles Wesley Stewart And I'm a Third.
PS: Where were you born and when were you born?
CS: El Dorado, Arkansas, September 25, 1927.
PS: And tell me about your parents.
CS: My father was born in Hartselle, Alabama, where his father and other members of his family were from originally. Earlier generations lived in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. His father came to Arkansas to work for an uncle in Morrillton, Arkansas, who was in the general mercantile business This was a brother of his mother. This was how my father's father came to be in Arkansas. He died in Morrillton when my dad was six years old, so my dad was kicked around, living in boarding schools and with other family members, because his mother had to take over the work her husband was doing. Some of the family in Hartselle kept him for a while. When he was 17 he went into the navy; that was toward the end of WWI. He did a tour of duty, a minority cruise they called it, and upon reaching the age of 21, he was

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Patricia Stone moved to Arkansas when she was twelve years old. She teaches social studies in the middle school at Lincoln. Her master's thesis for the University of Arkansas, which she completed in 2003, is about a nineteenth-century African American community near Cane Hill.

discharged from the navy in Little Rock, Arkansas. There was no work around there particularly, but the oil boom was going on in El Dorado. So he went to El Dorado and found a job there. He worked for City Service, which ended up being Lion Oil Company. My mother was Mettie Adams from here in Fayetteville. She was working for her brother, Bert Adams, who had a flower shop in El Dorado. That is where my mother and dad met, and they were married in April of 1926.

PS: And they lived down there?

CS: They lived there until 1939, when my grandfather died up here. He had a business here, and the family decided to have my father come and run the business.

PS: Do you have brothers and sisters?

CS: I have one brother and two sisters, James, Joy, and June.

PS: And they were born in El Dorado as well?

CS: No, June was born in Fayetteville; my brother was five years younger than I. His name is James, middle name, Histaspias.

PS: Wait, spell that please.

CS: I have found the name spelled several different ways.

PS: Well, I want to do it right.

CS: The name on his birth certificate is spelled Histaspias. He is named after my father's grandfather, who spelled the name Histaspas.

PS: Where does that come from? I've never seen that name before.

CS: I've researched it, and I think the name is biblical, referring to Darius, son of Hystaspes. Supposedly, William Stewart in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, had a classical education, and he gave several names to his sons that were sort of odd but biblical. He had another son named Orthniel, who was possibly named after the first Hebrew judge in the Bible. And then he had one named Lincoln. From my research I think that he was named after Benjamin Lincoln. Do you know who Benjamin Lincoln

was? He accepted Cornwallis's sword at Yorktown. And I think he was considered a hero in North Carolina. That's who I think he was named after.

PS: And so you were twelve when you moved here?

CS: Right.

PS: Tell me about going to school here.

CS: I entered the seventh grade in Washington School; in fact that's the school my mother went to when she was a little girl.

PS: That was elementary school. And you graduated from high school here too?

CS: Right.

PS: Do you have any ideas or memories of Fayetteville High School? Were you there during any of the desegregation era?

CS: No, I was out by then. Are you talking about when they had the problems down at Little Rock?

PS: Well, yes, and before that.

CS: When they desegregated in Fayetteville, my uncle Ray Adams was chairman of the school board.

PS: Do you recall any stories he told about that?

CS: No, and he has been deceased for several years now.

PS: So after you graduated from high school, you entered the navy?

CS: Right! There was a friend of mine, Bob Bowen. The two of us had been close in grade school and up through high school. He and I were sort of draft dodgers. If we waited till we were 18, we'd be drafted. So instead of waiting to be drafted, we could have a choice of service if we volunteered before reaching age 18. So we both decided we'd join the navy, because at that time it was obvious the war wasn't going to end before we would be drafted.

PS: Where were you deployed to the navy from here?

CS: Both of us went to Little Rock. We went in together and stayed together through boot camp in San Diego.

PS: Did you get to stay together?

CS: No, after boot camp we were divided. Bob was assigned to a tanker and I was assigned to the hospital ship U.S.S. Mercy. There was a boy, G. R. Statler, from Egypt, Arkansas, who was with me from the time we got on the train destined for boot camp all the way through until we were discharged. I went to see him about six years ago. He was living in Bakersfield, California. First time I'd seen him since we were in the navy. We were very, very close. Very fine fellow.

PS: So you stayed in touch this whole time?

CS: No, I lost him for a while. While on a visit to Jonesboro I contacted his brother in Egypt and found he was living in Bakersfield. The Statlers were a prominent family in the community of Egypt.

PS: How long were you in the Navy?

CS: Eleven months and eleven days. Bob Bowen and I were sworn in on August 6th of 1945. Well, that was the end of the war basically. That was the day they dropped the Atom bomb. Because of the time difference, it was dropped there August 6th, but it was still August 5th here. Going to Little Rock to be sworn in, the radio announcer was saying that yesterday this bomb had been dropped.

PS: So you didn't see any action then.

CS: No, I guess I was lucky.

PS: How did you feel about that?

CS: Well, you can't realize at the initial report how catastrophic it was. But as years go by, you hate to see that it happened to so many people.

PS: Did you realize when you heard that news that the war was over?

CS: Oh, no. Before that happened, they were figuring that we were going to have to invade Japan. I guess overall, it probably saved a million lives. Even though it took a lot of lives, it probably saved a lot more lives.

PS: So you came back from the navy. What was the next step in your life?

CS: I started at the University then in the fall of '46. I was in business administration. I started out intending to be an accounting major. I was working on accounting problems until one and two in the morning, and I just said to myself, I'm not going to bend my back over a set of books all my life. I decided to go to law school; I had the required ninety credit hours. I had the equivalent to get a minor in accounting. I received a law degree in 1951. My dad had a heart attack in January of '51 before I graduated, and I decided , I'd better go into the business and take a load off of him. He still had my brother who was in school and my two sisters coming up behind me to educate. So I ended up bending my back over a set of books all my life. I guess the Lord didn't in intend for me to tell Him I wasn't going to bend my back over a set of books.

PS: So you never did go into practicing law?

CS: Not actively. I have had a smattering of business law practice and have handled a few family estates. I have done very little trial practice. I wouldn't be a good trial practice lawyer.

PS: Why?

CS: I don't have the experience and really no desire to enter the field. It's like anything, law has come to the point people go into certain areas of law and become experienced in them. It's become specialized sort of like medical doctors.

PS: Tell me about when you met your wife.

CS: During a law seminar in September of 1954 there was a banquet at the Uark Bowl, which my friend Charles Scharlau and I started to attend, but it was so crowded we decided to go to Heiny's to eat a steak. We had been seated and in a little while some of our friends came by our table and talked a moment. They were E. J. Ball and wife Gladys, Wiley Davis and a friend, and a student, Jake Sharp, who had a date with my future wife. Wiley

had been a professor of ours. A little bit later that evening Charles and I adjourned to George's. I guess you know where George's is?

PS: Oh yes.

CS: It's a lot different place now than it was then. E. J. and his party came to George's and I saw my wife a second time. On another evening I was at George's with Wiley Davis, and I asked, "Wiley, who was the girl Jake Sharp had a date with the other night?" I don't think he could remember her name at that time. Wiley would sometimes for emphasis clinch his front teeth to talk, which he did at this time and said, "Oh, did you like that! Did you really like that! Are you sure you liked that? I'm going to introduce you to that." Later I saw Wiley at George's two or three times and would ask him when he was going to introduce us. Finally, one night he went over to the telephone at George's. It was probably about ten o'clock at night. He called the Ball's house. I don't know what was said on the phone; but I'm going to tell you my story and a supposition of what E. J. might have said. I think that E. J. said to him, "She's over here now! Bring him over for the kill." (laughter) My wife was the sister of Marion Orton, who with her husband was a neighbor of the Ball's. My wife was living with them and attending the university, and on this particular night she was staying with E. J. and Gladys's children while they went out. This is when I really formally met my wife. I have a very deep affection for the Balls and Wiley Davis for making this introduction. Wiley some years later became the dean of the law school. He recently died and I will always miss him, his intellect, wit, humor, and friendship.

PS: When were you married?

CS: Now see this is where I have problems. I'm a kidder with my wife. We were married July 16th, 1955. I was discharged from the navy on July 17th, two important dates to me. I will ask about our anniversary date if it is on July 17th. Also, our first son was born on July 30, 1956, and when we might be talking to others, I have

sometimes mentioned these three important dates that we were married July 16th, I was discharged from the navy on July 17th, and our son was born on July 30th not mentioning the year.

PS: Give me her full name.

CS: She was Joanne Dee Rogers.

PS: And you have always lived here in Fayetteville since you were married?

CS: Oh, yes.

PS: Tell me about your children. Your first son was born a year later. Tell me his name.

CS: His name is Charles Wesley Stewart IV.

PS: You have two sons. Do they still live here?

CS: No. The older boy is in Houston, he's a patent attorney for Shell Oil. Thomas has a BSME from the University of Texas and is working in our business.

PS: Let's talk about the steel business. I'd like to know who in your family started it.

CS: That was James Allen Adams, my mother's father. He was a nurseryman; he worked in agriculture and grew apple orchards. He would go out and buy orchards, and when I say buy orchards, I mean he would buy the fruit of the orchard, and then harvest it. He didn't buy the land and the orchard itself. And he also was in the nursery business growing various plants. He owned the property at the front part of the Veteran's Hospital. Mr. Wilson owned the back part. When the VA was looking for a place for the Veteran's Hospital, two places were proposed. Seems like one of them was to be in Gentry. And they were talking as if Gentry was going to get it regardless. But they wanted three places to choose from. People from the Chamber of Commerce, bankers and other community leaders, came to my grandfather. I can only say this is the story that's been told to me. These people came to him and asked him if he would allow them to put up his property as a third location and assured him that the purchase of his land wasn't

From left standing, James Histaspias Stewart, Betty June Stewart, Joy Rae Stewart, Charles Wesley Stewart III; middle seated, Margaret Ann Zoellner Stewart, Mettie Agnes Adams Stewart, Charles Wesley Stewart II, Joanne Dee Rogers Stewart; front, Scott Edward Stewart, James Histaspias Stewart II, Charles Wesley Stewart IV, Thomas Rogers Stewart in 1959 (Courtesy Charles Stewart III).

From left standing: Charles IV, Charles III, and T. R.; seated, Micah, Glenda, Joanne, and Quint Stewart in 1984 (Courtesy Charles Stewart III).

Representative Charles Stewart and Joanne Stewart (Courtesy Charles Stewart).

going to happen. Well, it did happen. And oh, what I've heard is that he just became real hostile because he felt he'd been misled. Well, Jim McIlroy, the owner of the bank, knew that he (my grandfather) had been really misled and he said, "I will help you out. I've got some property available in different places." One of the places was across the street from where the Veteran's Hospital is today. He offered to make that location available to him at a bargain to make up for the loss. He arranged for purchase by my grandfather of some property in the south part of town on School Street where the bus station is today. In 1932 they started building the hospital, giving my grandfather two years to move. He built a house on the property that Jim McIlroy sold him. It is the rock house that is right north of the pharmacy on North College. Another concession they gave him was the preservation of an oak tree that all his kids had played on. It was at the northwest corner of his house. They preserved that tree until it died, oh, nine or ten years ago. If you go by on College Avenue, you'll see a stone ring around a newly planted tree where the old oak tree stood. A man named Earl Gooding came to him and said, "Mr. Adams, I have a chance to buy an old truck for thirty-five dollars and I already have the rear end sold for twenty-five dollars. But I don't have the thirty-five dollars and I don't have a place to put it." So that was when my granddad said, "I'll help you out and we'll put it down on the property where the bus station and Warford used car lot is today. That was the beginning of the present-day business as an auto salvage. That was in 1932, and as the years went along, they expanded into the scrap business, as scrap iron and metals were generated from the carcass of cars after removal of useable parts. In 1939, when my grandfather died, my grandmother couldn't run it. All the Adams children thought my father would be the one they'd like to have come here and take it over. The operation continued on that site until 1946. Steel mills wouldn't buy scrap unless it was loaded into rail gondola cars. Scrap at that time was

loaded on trucks and transported several blocks to a rail siding and loaded in gondola cars. This being very inefficient, my father purchased land on a railroad siding and moved on that location starting in 1946. The scrap operation grew as the auto salvage was phased out. We diversified by stocking new steel products. In 1963 my brother James came into the business. He is an Annapolis graduate with a masters degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas. He worked for Armco Steel with experience in building design, and his experience in the steel business has increased that part of our operation to the point it is now about 75% of our operation.

PS: Do you make the steel there?

CS: Oh no. We ship the scrap iron to steel mills and the cast iron goes to foundries. We've shipped to mills everywhere. I guess Lackawanna, New York, is the most distant point, which was after World War II. During the war, we had no control over what we did. We had to sell to mills wherever the War Production Board told us to sell. During the war most of our scrap was allocated either to Laclede Steel, or Granite City, in the East St. Louis, Illinois area. Occasionally our material was allocated to Sheffield Steel at Kansas City. We were paid a flat price. We got twenty dollars a ton f.o.b. Fayetteville. Prices were frozen on all scrap shipped. After the war, the regulations were lifted and we shipped to various mills on a competitive basis.

PS: There was a great demand for it right after the war?

CS: Yes, for about two years. Scrap businesses have always been considered a prince or pauper business. Consumers can get a glut of it and the glut can last for years. There can be very sudden shortages develop with mills everywhere needing it and crying for it. But in more recent years we've been shipping close to us, primarily to Sheffield, at Sand Springs just west of Tulsa. They make reinforcing bar and fence posts. Also, we have been shipping to Arkansas Steel in Newport. They make railroad splice

bars and railroad accessories primarily. We have shipped to Nucor in Jewett, Texas, which makes small structural angles, channels, flats. And also we've shipped to Chaparral, at Midlothian, Texas, which makes large beams. That's the scrap end of it. As we built up the new steel inventory, we began selling the new steel to machine shops or individuals. My brother, being a civil engineer, estimates jobs using architect's plans and fabricates and erects the steel. That's about 75 percent of the business while scrap has dropped to about 25 percent.

PS: What is your job title at the business? Are you the president?

CS: No, I'm the secretary-treasurer. My brother's the president. It's a family thing.

PS: How many employees do you have?

CS: We usually average about fifteen. We have had up to twenty depending on how busy we get. We've tried to hold it under fifteen. We're not interested in getting rich or anything like that. By holding it under fifteen, we keep ourselves sort of in what's considered a small business category and we don't have the headaches of government regulations, like larger businesses.

PS: Do you have a pretty close-knit workforce then?

CS: If we get a person who stays five years, they usually stay with us a long time. One man, Otto Doster, who died recently, was with us over fifty years. There is another, Atlee Daily, who has been with us for over fifty years. He's still active, a better worker than many young persons!

PS: I would like to talk to you about your political career. When did you decide to become a legislator and what caused you to want to get involved in politics?

CS: Well, that's sort of odd. When I started to law school there were a lot of students who were veterans in law school. Many of the veterans became interested in running for the legislature and there were a number of them who were elected. That's when I first realized what it was about. One of the people in the legislature at

that time was Bill Murphy. I talked to him one time about if he ever decided not to run maybe I'd like to run. But I wasn't really serious. I got a little bit upset when a man by the name of Jim Bruton was in the legislature and he introduced a bill to put a tax on bachelors. My classmate and very close friend Charles Scharlau and I were running around town free and unattached. We being bachelors got a little bit upset about it.

PS: I guess so. Rightfully so, I think.

CS: That's when I think I said something seriously about running, Scharlau later became president of Arkansas Western Gas. Clifton Wade and Bill Murphy were Washington County's state representatives. Our senator, John Cloer, decided not to seek re-election and Wade and Murphy decided to run for his Senate seat, leaving the two representative seats vacant. So Charles Scharlau said after that, when are you going to announce? So that's what I did. It was all because I thought that Jim Bruton's bill was serious. When I got to the legislature and met Jim Bruton, he seemed to be a pretty nice old boy. It was then explained to me that the bill introduced was in jest. It was never serious. There are times a tremendous amount of pressure will build up in the house. I mean, members will have constituents one way and constituents the other way and the news media on them and even their own peers in the legislature, and the members will get uptight. Somebody will do something like this just to let off steam. And the public doesn't realize it, and takes some of those things done in jest seriously, and I did! I thought he was serious about putting that tax on. So that's how I got started.

PS: What year was that?

CS: That was 1954. Orville Faubus ran that year for the first time. He was elected. He beat Francis Cherry. Nobody thought he'd ever beat Francis Cherry.

PS: Tell me about the Faubus administration. What was your impression of that?

CS: Well, he was very assertive. Starting out, I was just a little bit immature I would say—very inexperienced. Faubus's first term was not really that controversial. It was in the second term that he brought the National Guard in to keep the blacks out of Little Rock Central High School. He called a special session introducing a package of bills to aid him in his goal to prevent integration. I voted for some of the bills with reservation and because of threats made towards the University. There was bitterness among many of the legislators who disliked the federal government's forcing integration on us. The bitterness carried over to future sessions with all sorts of poorly thought out bills being introduced— some were vetoed by Governor Faubus. Act 10 requiring college professors and teachers to take a loyalty oath was one of these types of bills— if one group of citizens are to submit to this requirement then all should. Because of growing differences between Faubus and the Little Rock School Board, he had introduced a bill referred to as the School Board Pack Bill which would have given him control over the Little Rock School Board. Most of the legislators were staying in the Marion Hotel and about five in the morning on the day the bill was to come to a vote I received a phone call from Storm Whaley, the University's liaison to the legislature. He said, "Charlie you have to come down to Deacon Wade's (Washington County senator) room." I mentioned I wasn't out of bed and not dressed, and Storm said, You have to come, just put on a house coat and come on down. I went immediately to Deacon's room and knocked on the door. Storm opened the door, and with him was Dave Burleson, the other representative from Washington County. Dave said right out "We're going to have to vote for the Pack Bill." I said, "The hell you say!" There were several members of the University Board of Trustees sitting in the room. They started explaining that Faubus was not going to approve their budget request if he did not receive the Washington County Representatives' vote on his bill. I agreed

to vote on his bill, and asked the board members to advise him not to ask for my vote on anymore of this type of bill. I have always considered this the worst vote I ever cast. In this same period it had been determined that the Teachers Retirement Fund was under funded. The actuarial firm that worked with the fund was Gabriel out of Detroit, and they had presented a formula which would make the fund actuarially sound. The Arkansas Education Association and Superintendents of Arkansas were backing the Gabriel recommendation; however, Forrest Rozzell, executive secretary of the AEA was in opposition to Faubus's position on closing of schools in the integration fight. Faubus, in retribution, introduced legislation to fund the retirement at a significantly lower amount than recommended by Gabriel. Faubus brought a man from Dallas to testify before the House as to the soundness of his plan. In questioning it was determined he had only studied the Teachers Retirement Fund for one day, whereas the Gabriel firm had spent months in making their determination. Dave Burleson and I were backing the Gabriel Bill, and on the day the Faubus bill was to come up, which was as a special order of business after lunch, Faubus called us to his office during the noon recess. Faubus said to us he needed our vote on his bill. Our answer was if he could get three men in our county to say they supported it we would vote for it. He asked who they were, and we told him they were—Wayne White, superintendent of the Fayetteville Schools, J. O. Kelly, superintendent of the Springdale Schools, and J.R. Kennan, Washington County School superintendent. Faubus said I haven't got time to ask them—I need your vote. I said to him, we'll be in trouble if we go back home voting for it. He pointed his finger right at me and said, "You're in trouble if you don't." Dave and I did not vote for his bill. It passed, but in the next session the funding was increased to put the retirement fund on a sound basis. Another finger pointer who would use bullying tactics was Paul Van Dalsem. You might

say he and Carroll Hollensworth were the powers in the House at that time. Paul used the University as a threat a number of times on me. He sat on the opposite side of the House Chamber, and he came running across to my side yelling, "If you don't vote for my bill, I'm going to gut your University." At this time I began to build a little spine — it had been jello up to this time. I told Paul, "You just have at it, it's not my University— the University belongs to the people of the State of Arkansas and if you want to ruin it go ahead, but it is not my University." It takes you about three terms before you can get your feet on the ground and deal with these situations, and that is why I'm against term limits. I don't think the people in the legislature now have enough time to get the experience needed. The governor has so much more time, staff, backing across the state, such as board and commissioners of state agencies, where he or she can control everything. You need legislators who can stand up to the governor when he is wrong. Those people with experience can do this.

PS: How long did you serve?

CS: Forty-four years.

PS: So by that forty-fourth year you were pretty much there.

CS: I was ready to get out. I was ready probably two or three terms before.

PS: What do you consider to be your most satisfying accomplishment for the county or the state as a legislator?

CS: Something most people probably wouldn't realize. When I first went in, there was a group of about ten to fifteen that controlled the House. There was about sixty some House committees. There were too many committees. They couldn't get their quorums at committee meetings. Committees frankly were ineffective except three or four that were controlled by these people, and they had to have control of the Speaker to do it. This went on for about ten years after I was there. There was a group of us, David Pryor happened to be one of them, that didn't like

what was going on. One of my objections was that the Speaker controlled the calendar. The calendar was not a public calendar. The Speaker had a notebook that fit in his coat pocket and it would have a list of bills on it with the order they were supposed to come up. I introduced a bill and I got it out of committee with a *do pass* and had the speaker put it on his calendar. Well, a couple of weeks went by and I went up and asked, "Mr. Speaker, can you tell me where my bill is?" He said, "What's your bill number?" and he went into his coat pocket and said it was about six down at this time. And the book went back in his pocket. Another week or so and the session was getting close to being over and I went back up and asked, "Mr. Speaker where's my bill?" He said, "What's your bill number?" He looked at his calendar and now it was about sixty down. I had supported another person for Speaker. So the thing that I pushed for most was a public calendar, which was one that the legislative members and public could see and know each day the bills to be considered. A member getting their bill out of committee goes to the calendar clerk and places it on the calendar. They know exactly where their bill is as compared with other members, and there's no favorable treatment. I feel that was one of the greatest accomplishments that's ever happened, a public calendar. In time, committees were reduced to ten standing committees. There were five A committees and five B committees. A member could not serve except on one A committee and one B committee. A and B committees would meet on alternating days. That way they would have a quorum present. The chairmen and the vice chairmen worked up by seniority. This well-needed reform was through efforts of Washington County representatives Hugh Kincaid, Rudy Moore, and Jodie Mahony of El Dorado. With term limits this reform is no longer the case and it is a bad result.

PS: What's your view about what's going on there today compared with the accomplishments you and your colleagues made? Where do you see Arkansas politics today?

CS: Well, since I got out I just tried to divorce myself from it all. But I think we are again putting too much power in the Speaker. We virtually took power away from the Speaker. He was selected to preside over the House fairly and impartially with still some appointive powers. But under the seniority system, he had no control over who would be chairmen or vice chairmen. We have returned to where the Speaker will decide who will be the chairmen and vice chairmen of committees. The candidates running for Speaker use these appointments for votes—"I'll give you this appointment and you give me your vote for Speaker." It's back where you're getting more and more little sub-committees. They're going to go right back to having problems, I think, with quorums.

PS: But you wouldn't consider going back and straightening all that out?

CS: Nope. I've had all of it I want.

PS: Well, I've covered everything I wanted to cover, but I don't want to stop the interview if there's anything you'd like to add.

CS: Later I'll probably think of something, but right now—

PS: You've had an extremely satisfying, rich, and varied life. I'll end our interview with a thank you for your hospitality and your openness.

WHITE RIVER CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECORDS

These pages were scanned from the Original Notes, which were then sent to the Washington County Historical Society. They were in the possession of Lessie McMullen, whose grandmother was Ruth Wood. The scanned documents were sent to me [Mary Maxwell] July 9, 2001, and are transcribed below: McMullen has donated the records to the society in the names of the four sons of Thomas Wright Clark and Ruth Wood—Richard Wood Clark, Walter Clark, William Wilson Clark, and Charles Albert Clark.

In the year of our Lord, 1831 ____th , _____living persons professing faith in the Lord has _____and their willingness to support this _____

---Baptised---

	Recd	Infants	Adults	Married	Born	Date
1					1	1838 Apr 13th
2					1	1836 Jan 19th
3					1	1838 Apr 3rd
4					1	1833 Mar 13th
5					1	1834 Sept 21st

*omitted some columns which had nothing in them

1—Martha Jane Strain

2 – Elizabeth Malisa Strain

3 – James Franklin Strain

4 – Robert Milton Wood

5 – Sarah Mailsa Wood

White River Sesion met at the Dwelling house of Brother Jarret Wood on the 15th of June, 1831.

Members present and Minister S. Buckhanon

Elder Robert McCamey, Robert Buckhamon, Robert Strain and Jarret Wood

Agreeably to the advice given by presbytery the sesion proceded to the arangment of the minutes which are as follows:
In the year of our Lord 1831 the following persons professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a willingness to support the gospel as God in his presence may prosper then agree to be organized into a company to be known by the Name of the White River Congration under the care of the Arkansas presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to be governed by the Desciples and form of government of that Church and to have the Word and ordinances of God administered to them by its members
Church Members:

1) Robert McCamy 4) James Strain 7) Malinda Wilson
2) Robert Strain 5) George Strain 8) Thussey Shaver ?
3) Mary Strain 6) Marthey Ritter 9) Newton McCamey
10) Jane Wood

Aprile the 3d 1831
The congragation being present the following people were chosen ruling Elders in this congration
Robert Strain and Robert McCamy and they have been ordained and accepted the office of Elders in the congration
Service ajorned A Buckhannan moderator
Robert Strain Clk

The sesion of White River met at the campground on the 12th of September 1835 and the following people were received into the conversion of the church
Marriages:
Malinda Wilson to Young Ritter, June the 28, 1836
Malinda Vaughn to John Still
Polly Strain to Henry Maxwell
Elizabeth Maxwell to James B. H. Strain
Margret Irven to Gilson Stogner
Births

Children of James and Elizabeth Strain
Marthey Jane was Born Aprile 3, 1834
Polley Melissa Jan 19th.....1836
James Franklin Aprile the 3.....1838
Children of Jarret and Jane Wood
Robert Milton was born March the 13, 1831
Sarah Malissa was born March 3, 1833
John Alexander was born September 24, 1834
James Harvey was born May 23, 1836
Henry Madison, 15.....1838
Children of George and Polly Strain
Sarah Jane November the 16..1833
Henery Madison February 15.....1833
William Jack January 14.....1835
Robert Melton June 14.....1838
Children of Hugh and Harriet Lewis
John was born July 19.....1828
Nancy was born February 10.....1833
Caroline was born May the 13.....1835
Calvin was born October 17.....1837
Sesion adjourned to Meet at Brother Jarret Woods on July the 20, 1839
A. Buckhanon, Moderator Robrt McCamy, Clk
Sesion met agreeably to adjournment
Members Present: Minister A. Buckhanon.
Elders Brother Robert Strain and Jarret Wood, Members absent Robert McCamy and Robert Buckhanon. The following persons came forred and gave a Relation of their experimental knowledge of Religion and were received unto the communion of the church

25) Harriet Lewis
26) Polley Maxwell
27) Mary Marshel

Sesion adjourned. A. Buckhanon, Moderator, Jarret Wood, Clerk Interim

The Sesion of White River met at the camp ground on the 12th of September 1835 and the following persons were received into the Communion of the Church to wit

11) Jarret Wood
12) Sarah Hail
13) Polley Fletcher
14) Elizabeth Strain
15) Lucinda McCamy
16) Marthey Prewitt
17) Daniel Ritter
18) James West
19) Robert Buckhanon
20) Polly Buckhanon
21) Malinda Vaughn
22) Margret Irven
23) Lotty McMillon
24) James Wilson

Sesion adjourned A Buckhannon Moderator
Robert McCamy, Clk

White River sesion met at the Camp groun on the 18th day of August 1839, Members present Minister A. Buckhanon, Elders Robert Strain, Robert Buckhanon, Jarret Wood, and Robert McCamy

The following persons were recd into the communion of the Church by Letter of Recommendation to wit:

28) James Green
29) Dillerd Isam (or Green)

Session adjourned to meet tomorrow A. Buckhannon, Moderator, Robert McCamy, Clerk

Sesion met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as on yesterday the following persons came forward and gave a relation of their experimented knowledge of Religion and was recd into the communion of the Church to Wit

30) Sarah West
31) James Hill
32) Aaron West
33) Polley Strain
34) Elizabeth Williford
35) Nancy Bieard

Sesion adjourned to meet on tomorrow

A Buchannon, Moderator, Robert McCamy, Clerk
Sesion met agreeably to adjournment. Members present as on yesterday the following persons came forward and gave a Relation of their Experimented knowledge of Religion and were Recd into the Communion of the Church to wit

36) Robert Marshall
37) Elizabeth Marshall
38) Jacob Shaver
39) Matilda Shaver
40) Permely Shaver
41) Robert West
42) Elizabeth Fletcher
43) Polley Benbrook
44) Alan McMillon

February 2nd 1868
The Sesion of White River Congregation of the CP Church met at Maguires Meeting House, Elders H M Maguire, A Stokenbery
When Bro John Cuningham came forward and was Reinstated in the Church
And Letters of Dismission were Granted
Bros F Shoftner, NC Shoftner, PW Shoftner, W.M. Shoftner and Sister Julia Rice
L. M. Bell, Modr
August the 20 – 1839
White River congration being present preceded to an Election of Dacons and on motion of Robert McCamy, Dillard Isam was put in Nomination and on Notice of Jarret Wood, Hugh Lewis was put in Nomination
The vote of the Church was taken whether tha should have one or two Dacons and it was decided that should have two whom upon the Breatheren in nommanation expressed their willingness to serve as was elected and ordained to the office of Deacons in this Congration by B. H. Pearson. Sesion adjourned to meet on the 7 of September 1839 at this place
Minister A. Buckhannon, Elders Robert Strain, Jarret Wood, Robert McCamy

When Robert Buckhannon was appointed to Represent this congration in the next session of the Washington Presbytery
Session adjourned A. Buckhannon Moderator, Robert McCamy, Clerk
Friday the 13 February 1840
The Sesion met at the camp ground of White River. Members present
B.H. Pearson, Minister, Robert Strain, Robert Buckhannon, Jarret Wood and Robert McCamy, Elders, ordered that Brother Robert Buckhannon attend the next sesion of Presbytery as the Representative of the congragation
Ordered that the Dacons of this congration pay the amount of the Sucription for ? to Brother A. Buckhannon an B. H. Pearson and equally the sesion adjourned
Robert McCamy, Clerk B.H. Pearson, Moderator
August 7th 1865 ~~ Tuesday

The session of Whiteriver Congregation met at liberty meeting house on the Middle fork of Whiteriver. Members present: Brs: J. Wood & G.W. King. Absent bros R. Buchanan, R McCamy & E. Harroll gave a relation of their conclusion and were received into the communion of the Church. And also sister Lucinda Williams, having previously solomized to the C.P. Church was received on recommendation
J. F. King, Mod W. G. Shults, Clerk
August 9th, 1855, Thursday

The sesion of Whiteriver Congragation met at Liberty meeting house on the Middle fork of Whiteriver and then and there received the following persons (to wit), Littleton J. Login, Lidea Login, Charity Coots & Sarah Wood. We then formed in to full fellowship, the latter postponed her baptism------
Members present as on Tuesday = J. F. King, Modr, W. G. Shults, Clk

Sept 1855

At a protracted meeting on the Main fork of Whitriver at union meeting house commencing the 8th and ending the 12 of (Sept 1855), The Sesion of Whiteriver congregation met from time to time and received the following persons (to wit), Emely Harris, ? King, Catharine Wood, Avis West & Elizabeth J. Shults into communion of the Church...And held the experience of religion, Sister Margaret Robbins, M. Drain & John Williams who deferred their baptism. Members of sesion in attendance from time to time Mr. R. McCamy, J. Wood & GW King. Absent Brs. R. Buckhanon
And E. Herroll L. M. Bell, Modr, W. G. Shults, Clk

Sunday, Oct 14th 1855

The sesion of Whiteriver congregation met at union meeting house on the main fork of Whiteriver. Members present J. Wood, R. McCamy, & G. W. King, when Harmon Stuchkenbar and Jane Stuchkenbar gave a relation of the conversion and were received the former in full fellowship the latter deferring her baptism
Total number of communicants belonging to Whiteriver Congregation of the S. P. Church is 33 and five that have joined and have not been baptized.

Infant Baptisms	} 01
Secessions	} 16
Dismissions	} 00
Excommunications	} 00
Deaths	} 01

The following is a correct list of the names of those belonging to the Whiteriver Congregation of the CP Church, so far as I have been able to ascertain at the present time:

March 8th, 1854

Robbert McCamy	John Wilson
Mary Strain	~~Melinda Fletcher~~

~~James Strain~~
George Strain
Melinda Ritter
Jarret Wood
Mary S. Fletcher (?)
Lucinda McCamy
~~Mary Strain~~
Mary Bell
Mahala Benbrook
Luther M. Bell
William G. Shults
~~David F. Bone~~
Sarah Evans
Mary Moulden
Hannah Williams
Hosea M. Maguire
Ellen Maguire
~~Martha F. Strain~~
~~Mary M. Strain~~
Sarah M. Wood
Minerva Mills
Mary Williams
John Foster
Nancy Foster
Matilda Still
Elizabeth Strain
Leander Dickson
Mary Dickson
Katharin Austin
Benjamin D. Austin
James M. Austin
Mary Homesly

Martha Williford
Robbert Buchanon, Elder
Calvin Sams, Elder
Elias Harrell, Elder
Mary Buchanon
Smith S. Hankins
Lucinda A. Harrell
Rhoda Hankins
Jane Drake
Benjamin Drake
Nola Brazel
William M. Mullen
Mary Mullen
Levi Mullen
James Homesly
Jane Homesly
Mary Ann Terry
Benjamin D. Harrell
Anne Harrell
Reubin Lollar
Rhoda Lollar
William Waits (?)
Sarah Waits
Russoll Waganon
Jane Waganon

Adam James
Nancy Ernest
William Homesly
Nona Shumate
Elizabeth R. Kiser
Augustus Buchanan
Thomas Mc Christian
(not baptized)
~~James Fletcher~~
Nancy Maguire
Defassy ? Harris
August 21st, AD 1854

At Strains meeting house on the middle fork of White River, the ordinance of baptism was administered to the following infants to wit, Thomas Jefferson Wood, infant of Brother Jarrett and Catherine Wood – And Andrew Johnston Strain, infant of Brother G. D. and Mary Strain

By the Rev. Wm. McMillen

July 16th, 1854

Elizah, Lacy, Losson, Milton &. William, children of Bro. H. Boone and his wife received the ordinance of Baptism by the Rev. A. Buchanan

Aug 29, 1854

Br. George W. King and Sister Tennissee King, his wife, presented their letter of dismission and recommendation from the Kingriver congregation of the C. P. Church and they were received into full fellowship and communion in this congregation.

Aug 31st, 1854

The session of Whiteriver Congregation met at the dwelling house of Wm. Shults. Members present, minister Wm. McMillin, Elders Bro. Jarret Wood, James Strain. Absent Brs. R. Buchanan, R. McCamy, E. Harrell and then and there proceeded to order

letters of dismission and recommendation to the following persons to wit, James Strain, Elizabeth Strain, Martha J. Strain, Mary M. Strain and James Fletcher.

Wm. McMillin, Modr, Wm. G. Shults, Clk.

Sept 24th, AD, 1854

Br. George King having been previously elected to the office of Ruling Elder in the Whiteriver Congregation to supply the vacancy caused by the removal of Bro. J. Strain, received ordination at the hands of Rev. L. M. Bell

Sept 31st, AD, 1854

A meeting of the Sesion of Whiteriver Congregation having been ordered at two different times and a quorum to attend it was agreed between Brs. Wood and King. Br. King should represent this Congregation at the next Session of the Presbytery.

August the 9st, 1866

The sesion of White River Congregation met at the H. M. Maguires on Sunday August 9, 1866. Members present brothers Carnahan. Elders present G.W. King, H. Meguire & H. Stokenberry- absent L. foster also brother George W. King was appointed clerk of the white river congregation. Also appointed brothers G. W. King to the next sesion of presbytery. Sesion closed by prayer

G.W. King, Clerk

March the 8, 1867

The sesion of white river congregation met at H. Maguires, elders present H. M. Maguire H. Stokenberry & G. W. King. Absent L. Foster the session appointed brother stokenberry to represent us in the next sesion of presbytery. Cession closed

G. W. King, Clerk

List of the names of the members of Whiteriver Congregation of the C.P. Church to wit

R. McCamy, Elder
Lucinda McCamy
Mary Williams
George Strain
Mary Strain
Minerva Mills
Catharine Wood
Mahala Benbrook
Ellen Maguire
G. W. King
Tennessee King
Indian King
Manda Jane King
Liza King
Sarah Wood
T. J. Login, Elder
Mrs. Login
John Login
Newton Login
Melinda Glass
John Lewis
Sarah Lewis (leterd out)
G. W. Drain
Elizabeth Drain
John Foster, Elder
Nancy Foster
Charity Coots
Hannah Williams
Mary E. Bell
Martha H. ?
M. G. Moulden
Avis West
T. M. Bell
Sarah Bell
Rebecca Nowlen
Eveline Strain
Margaret Robins
May Fletcher
Defazy ? Harris
Emely Harris
Melinda Ritter
Elizabeth L. Shults
Wm. G. Shults
Henry D. Wood
Andrew S. Woods
G. W. King Junior
James Benbrook
Wm. S. Shoftner
N. C. Shoftner
Rebecca Benbrok
Mahla Ritter
Mary Harris
Nancy Benbrook
H. E. Hebbert
G. Shofner
L Shofner
Lulia or Julia Rice
Charles T. Bell
Martha J. Smith
P. W. Shoftner

H. M. Maguire Nancy Maguire
H. Stokenberry

The Sesion of Whiteriver Congregation met at Kings Meeting house on the 25th of June, A.D. 1866. Opened with prayer. Members present A. Carnahan, Minister. Elders G. W. King and H. Stokenberger. Absent Henry McGuire and John Foster, Harvey Woods, GW King, Junior. A. S. Woods came forward and gave a relation of their experimental acquainteous with religion which was satisfactory and they was all received into the communion of the church. Adjourned with out day. Closed with prayer.

A. Carnahan, Mdr. G. W. King, Clk

In a meeting held on White River Washington county Arkansas on the 9th day of September, 1866 at Maguires Meeting House the sesion being convined. B. M.Routh and L. M. Bell Ministers Robert Buckhanon, H. M. Maguire and H. Stokenberry, elders present G.W. King and L. foster absent.

The following persons came forward and gave there relation of there Experimental acquaintance with Religion and were received in communion with the church to wit, James Benbrook, Wm. Shoftner, N. C. Shoftner, James Powel, Rebecca Benbrook, Mahala Ritter, Mary Harris, Nancy Benbrook, H. C. Hebert, G. Stoftner, L. S. Stofner and Lulia Rice by Recommendation.

G. W. King, Clerk

The Session of White River Congregation met at the campground on the 25th of March, 1840. Members present Minister G. F. King, Elders, Jarret Wood, Luther M. Bell, and Lewis Marshall. Absent Robert McCamy and Robert Buchanan. Brother Jarret Wood was appointed to attend the next session of Presytery in behalf of this congregation. Brother George West having previously given a relation of his Experience of grace was baptized by the Rev. J. F. King.

Session adjourned si, ni, di

J. F. King, Modr.
Robert McCamy Clk

The White River Congregation Convend at the White River campground on the fourth of February, A.D. 1844 and then and there proceded to an Election of two Ruling Elders and one deacon for said Congregation and Bros. James Strain, Allen McMillen, and James Shults was put in nomination for Elders and Brs. George Strain and James Hill was put in nomination for deacon and the vote of the congregation was taken and Brs. James Strain and James Shults was Elected. Ruling Elders and Br. George Strain was Elected Deacon whereupon the Elders and deacon resently Elected Exprest a willingness to serve..was ordained fourthwith to the office of Elders and Deacon by Isaac T. Nolan, Minister

Isaac T. Nolan, Modr.
James Shults, Clk.

The Session of White River Congregation met a the Campground on Saturday the twenty fourth of February A.D. 1844--- Members present.. Minister Br. J. F. King, Elders Brs James Strain, Lewis Marshall and James Shults. Absent Robert McCamy and Jarret Wood, Br. James Shults was appointed Clerk of the Session of this Congregation.
Session adjourned to meet tomorrow.

J. F. King, Modr
James Shults, Clk

Session not pursuant to adjournment. Members present, Minister J. F. King, Elders Robert McCamy, Jarret Wood, James Strain, Lewis Marshall, and James Shults. Br. Robert McCamy was appointed to attend the next Session of Presbytery as the representative of this Congregation and in case of his failure, then Brother James Strain his alternate, Sister Emaline Wade having given a relation of her Experimental acquaintance with religion

was Baptised by the Rev. John F. King. Session adjourned without day.

J. F. King, Modr
James Shults, Clk

At meeting at Maguires meeting house on the 16 August AD 1866 Washington County, the sesion being convined. Ministers present L. M. Bell, B. M. Routh. Elders present R. Buckhanan, H. M. Maguire, H. Stokenberry. Absent G.W. King. When Charity T. Bell, Mary E. Bell, and Martha J. Smith & Martha M. ? came forward and gave a relation there and then of their experimental relation and received into communion of the C. P. Church.

G. W. King, Clerk

At a meeting held at Smith's meeting house on the 16 September 1866 a Washington County the sesion being convened. Minister B. M. Routh and L.M. Bell. Elders present Robert Buchanan, H. M. Maguire and G. W. King. Absent H. Stokenberry and J. Foster. When P. W. Shoftner came forward and gave a relation of his experimental acquaintenance with religion and was received into communion in the C.P. Church

G. W. King, Clerk

The Session of White River Congregation met at the White River Campground on Sunday the first day of September, 1844. Members present Br. A. Buchanan, Minister, Elders Br. James Strain, Lewis Marshall and James Shults...Absent Robert McCamy and Jarrett Wood

Br. James Fletcher came forward and gave a relation of his Experimental acquaintance with religion and was Received and Baptised by immersion the same day by the Rev. A. Buchanan, Minister. Session adjourned without day.

A. Buchanan, Modr
James Shults, Clk

The session of White River congregation met at the house of James Shults on the twelfth day of October, 1845 and then and there proceded to Issue letters of dismission for the following persons to wit, James Maxwell and Elizabeth his wife and Allen C. McMillen and Lydia his wife, Lewis Marshall and Hannah, his wife and Polly Maxwell and Abigal Maxwell and Mary Anderson, And no minister being present all was done by order of the session and signed by the Clerk.

James Shuls, Clk.

Mt. Comfort Meeting House September the 21st 1846, S.M. Wood, Mary M. Strain, Martha J. Strain and Minerva Strain were received into the communion of the Church and being residents within the bounds of White River Congregation were transferred to said Congregation by order of Session.

A. Carnahan, Clerk

The Session of White River Congregation convened at the house of James Shults on the 16th day of September, 1846. Members present, Benjamin Carnahan, Minister, Elders Jarret Wood, James Strain, and James Shults. Absent Robert McCamy, and Br. Jarret Wood was appointed to attend the next Session of Presbytery at the town of Huntsville in behalf of this congregation and in case of failure James Shults his alternate...The Session adjourned without day.

Benjamin Carnahan, Modr
James Shults, Clk

The Session of White River Congregation met at the dwelling house of James Shults on Saturday the seventh day of August, 1847. Members present Br. A. Buchanan, Minister, Elders Br. Robert McCamy, Jarret Wood and James Shults. Absent, Br. James Strain.

In compliance with an order made by the Washington Presbytery at the April session the said Buchanan with sesion

proceded to Examine and inquire into the condition and standing of the above congregation and found it out of order wherefore the Modr and Session resolved to call together all the members of the above congregation on Saturday the fourteenth of August 1847 at this place for further investigation---session adjourned to meet tomorrow after preaching here.

A. Buchanan, Minister
James Shults, Clk.

August 8th

Session met pursuant to adjournment. Members present, Br. A. Buchanan, Minister, Elders Brs. Robert McCamy, Jarret Wood, James Strain and James Strain. Absent none. The clerk made a motion to resign the office of Clerk but this motion did not carry. So the session adjourned to meet again on Saturday the fourteenth of August 1867 at the dwelling home of James Shults.

A. Buchanan, Modr
James Shults, Clk

The Session of White River congregation met pursuant to adjournment on Saturday, the fourteenth of August, 1847, at the dwelling house of James Shults. Members present Br. A. Buchanan, Elders Brs. Robert McCamy, Jarret Wood, James Strain, and James Shults the members of the above congregation generly being present the C Clerk proceded to call Each name separate and the Modr inquired of Each member who answered whether they wished to continue their membership or not and also of the balance of the members if they was willing to retain them as members in the Church and they were all retained Except Christopher Hiser and Charity Williams and Brs. Hugh Lewis and James Shults were appointed to go and converse with the above names. Kiser and I report to the Session and Bro. Jarret Wood and Luther M. Bell and Mary Strain were appointed to go and converse with the above named Charity Williams and report to

this session adjourned to meet tomorrow evening at the Liberty School house on the Middle fork of White River.

A. Buchanan, Modr.
James Shults, Clk.

The Session of White River met on Saturday the 22nd of February A.D. 1851. Members present Minister A. Buchanan Elders Brs. Jarret Wood, James Strain and James Shults, absent R. McCamy and then proceded to Elct Brother James Strain to attend the next Session of Presbytery, which will hold at Kings River campground, in behalf of said congregation and in case of failure Br. R. McCamy his alternate. Session adjourned without day, A. Buchanan Modr, James Shults, Clk.

At meeting on Sunday the 23rd of February 1851 at the Liberty meeting house on the middle fork of White River after preaching, a door was opened for the reception of members and Mrs. Harris came forward and took a seat and the session was called who came forward and hears a relation of her experimental knowledge of religion which was satisfactory to all and then she was baptized straitway by the Rev. A. Buchanan, this session adjourned without day. James Shults, Clk. A. Buchanan, Modr.

The session of White River congregation met at the dwelling house of James Shults on Monday the 6 of Octr 1852. Members present, no Minister, Elders Brs. R. McCamy, James Strain, Jarret Wood and James Shults and then and there Br. James Shults was appointed to attend in behalf of this congregation. The next session of the Washington Presbytery to be held at the new meeting house on the main fork of White River commencing the first Tuesday in Octr A.D 1851 the session adjourned without day.

James Shults Clk.

July 31st A. D. 1853. At the Church house on the main fork of the River in White River Congregation of the C.P. Church the sacrament of the Lords supper was administered by the Rev. A.

Buchanan ---- after which the congregation by a unanimous voice appointed or elected William G. Shults to the office of the Clerk in said congregation which appointment or election was complied with

Aug 7th A.D. 1853. At Liberty meeting house on the middlefork of White River, James Nathan Shults, infant of W. G. & Elizabeth Shults received the ordinance of Baptism at the hand of Rev. Wm. McMillen, and at the same place, Andrew Smith Wood, infant of Jarret & Catharine Wood received the ordinance of baptism by the Rev. Wm. McMillen.

At Liberty meetinghouse on the middle fork of Whiteriver, June the fifth 1853, Susan Catherine Strain, infant of James & Elizabeth Strain, received the ordinance of baptism at the hand of Rev. Wm. McMillen.

October 8, 1853, the sesion of the WhiteRiver congregation met at the residence of H. M. Maguires on the main fork of the White River. Elders present to wit, Brs. Jarrett Wood, James Strain and Elias Herroll. Absent Robbert Buchanan, B. J. Homsley & R. McCamy and then and there proceded to grant letters of dismission to the following people to wit, B. J. Homsley, Lucinda Homsley, Juliann Collier, Amanda Homsley, James M. Homsley, and Mary Ann

Main Fork, White River --- March 8th, 1854

The session of White River congregation met at the time and place above mentioned and proceded to appoint Br. R. Buchanan to attend the session of Presbytery then and there convened, Br R. McCamy and E. Herroll being absent the session adjourned without day, James Strain, Clk P.T. Modr, W. G. Shults, Clk

July 29th, 1854

The session of Whiteriver congregation met at the time and place aforesaid when sister Nancy Screech (?) gave a relation of

her Religious experience which was received. Elder present as on yesterday except Br. G. W. King, adjourned without day.

Sisters Eveline Williams, Emely Harris & Margaret Robbins having previously conversed with the session were baptized by Rev. J. F. King.

? meeting house, Sunday, July 27th 1856

at a protracted meeting on the main fork of Whiteriver the Whiteriver congregation of the C. P. Church proceded to the election of four ruling Elders for said congregation to wit – Brs. J. L. Login, John Foster, Harmon Stokenbury, and H. D. Maguire at the one or ? in the forenoon by unanimous voice of the Church and in the eavening they were ordained to the office of Ruling Elder with the one exception of Br. H. M. Maguire who was not in attendance Eleven oclock, July 28, 1856

Br. H. M. Maguire being in attendance was ordained to the office of ruling clerk.

Two oclock July 29, 1856

The session of Whiteriver congregation met at union meeting on the mainfork of whiteriver members present, Brs. R. McCamy, G.W. King, John Foster, Harmon Stokenber & A. M. Maguire absent J. L. Login. When sister Elizabeth Drain gave a relation of her religious experience which was received sesion adjourned without day. Sister Jane Stokenbar having previously conversed with the session received the ordinance of baptism by the Rev. J. F. King. Maitta Lucinda & Robbert Henry in favor of Harmon & Jane Stokenber received baptism by Rev. J. F. King.

THE MYRTLE MCCORMICK PARKS DIARY
PART 2

EDITED BY GRETCHEN GEARHART

Editor's note: Myrtle McCormick Parks of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, kept a daily diary for three of her sons who were serving in the armed forces during World War II. Barry and Donald Parks donated the diary to the Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, in 1987. We are most grateful to the Libraries for allowing us to publish excerpts from the diary. I want especially to thank Anne Prichard of the Special Collections staff and Susan Parks-Spencer, granddaughter of Myrtle Parks, for their invaluable assistance with this project.

By way of explanation, Mrs. Parks's husband, James Clay Parks, was president of the Prairie Grove Telephone Company, and the family owned the Beverly Theatre on Main Street.

Additional excerpts from the diary will appear in future issues of *Flashback*.

Tuesday, January 26, 1943. Twelve degrees when we got up. Arthur [McCormick] phoned that some film salesmen wanted to see Joe, said they would try to find him in Fay, but Joe [Parks] said he didn't see them. Jim [Parks] was late for dinner, I went down with him to work at Red Cross, haven't been able to go lately. Juanita [McClellan] came over to ask if I would be at home tonight, she wanted to come over. When I told her I was going to show she insisted I not go. Made me feel a little mean to anyhow but I did. Color picture "Forest Ranger" very pretty. I enjoyed it. We were anxious to get home to hear the news. Very thrilling! the meeting of Roosevelt and Churchill at Casa Blanca, Africa. Makes one feel a little jittery thinking of what might have happened. Went to bed fairly early. Jim had a coughing spell, got out of bed, sat up a while. Joe has been coming in earlier, said there wasn't

anyone to stay out with. Letter from Donald [Parks], glad to know he arrived safely.

Saturday, January 30. Letter from Barry [Parks], said he had passed the Aerial Gunnery physical exam and was so tickled could hardly keep his feet on the ground. He has had gas mask drill, been to dentist. I washed flannels and silks this afternoon, did some housecleaning. Juanita and Sue came tonight, stayed till 9:30. I was so tired could hardly stay awake. Sue investigated, Juanita recited catechism.

Monday, February 8. Pleasant but windy. I washed on porch but the wind was so strong I wished I hadn't before I was through. Jim went to Fay for Rationing Board meeting. Mama [Mamie McCormick] came up this morning. She was sorry about the shoe rationing which was announced yesterday to go into effect tomorrow. She has been after me to go to Fay with her, she wants to get me some shoes, Ruth [McCormick], too. She said Ruth wants to go tomorrow if Joe will drive Arthur's car for us. I went to PTA this afternoon, Founder's Day Tea. Joy [Webb], Emma [Cook], and I went to town for Federated Club meeting at Carman's Drug Store, Mamie Rieff and Ruetta Carman met with us. It was in reference to a Nurse's Training program which the General Federation of Women's Clubs is sponsoring. Florence [Phillips] has offered to donate $250.00 and wants the club to raise as much as possible. After her gift I'm afraid what we do will look like "chicken feed." Jim was so late getting home we didn't go to show. He went to office to work and I wrote letter to Jean [Findiesen, mother of Janet Parks] thanking her for candy she sent us Christmas. I'm ashamed to have put it off so long. Brother [Grover McCormick], Emma Cook, and Mama began getting milk from us again tonight. Jim took it when he went to town. While I was writing, Mrs. Berry [Mary] called, said she had a call for Joe from Aviation Center at Little Rock. I told her to call Carman's as he was still at theatre. When he came home he said

it was his call to report the 18th, though he said, "Daddy and Uncle Arthur think it's Glenn [Fidler] and M. J. [Sharp] doing it for a joke." I couldn't see any joke about it. When Jim came he said he didn't think the Army would have called collect and that the operator said the number was not that of the Aviation Center. I felt better but still had misgivings. I had hoped he wouldn't have to go for a while yet.

Wednesday, March 3. Two degrees below this morning. March certainly has come in like a lion or maybe more like a polar bear. Had letter from Barry, he said some very sweet things about his mother and her letters, still wants Joe's address, should have it by now. I cleaned house a little for prayer meeting was at my house tonight. All this cold weather has caused so much coal dust. There were only a few who braved the cold. We discussed prohibition and I'm afraid I said too much. Some people can't seem to understand how anyone can hate liquor and not believe in prohibition or that it won't work.

Thursday, March 4. I made the jello pudding for the refreshments this afternoon at Mama's. Chocolate and vanilla jello in layers with vanilla wafer crumbs on top and bottom, made quite a hit (or so they said). Jim took me down at noon with pudding, cups, etc. and I brought back pint of cream to whip with mixmaster. The calves and bad weather have cut our cream short and Mama ordered this from Barnetts [grocery]. After our circle meeting Katie Sue Helm dressed as a little WAAC and waving a little flag took in a suitcase filled with gifts and placed it in front of Mary [Cummings] singing all the time "This is the Army, Mr. Jones." Mary surely was surprised and seemed delighted. Said she had watched many girls unwrap shower gifts but never had expected to do it herself. She leaves for Des Moines next Monday where she is to be trained. Clara [Blakemore] had heard from Frank Glenn and that he had "washed out," something about his landing plane, she said. He was very blue, said he might be able

to get furlough home but didn't suppose they would ever want to see him again, they would be so ashamed of him. that sounds pretty silly to a Mother.

Friday, March 19. We had letters from Barry and Donald. Donald wondered how Tippy got along after Joe left. He left home for a while, didn't come around for over 2 weeks but now he is on our heels all the time, wants to stay in the house when we let him. He looks better than he has for some time. Clean and fat. Barry said he was at Appalachicola, 60 m. south of Tyndall Field, had gone down for "air to air firing" practice but the weather was so bad the planes were grounded. Mr. Long [B. B.] and Roberta [Cummings] came to practice some duets which they were going to sing at the church supper tonight. We had a very nice supper, spaghetti with hamburger, salad and coffee and cocoa. Mrs. Burnett even brought a cake, a novelty nowadays. Roberta's husband didn't want to come they said because he felt that everyone would wonder why he wasn't in the Army. I heard him say to Jack Harlan as I passed them, "I know they wonder but what can I do." Emma Cook told me that he had been "frozen" in his job because the government felt that he was more useful as a geologist. Emma said Magruder [Cook] told her about his being on guard duty, said the last two hours he felt that it would be alright with him if Hitler took Ft. Leonard Wood. I imagine Joe could appreciate that for he was on guard duty from Sun. 11:30 till Mon. 11:30.

Wednesday, April 14. Mrs. Long [Mrs. B. B.] and I were delighted with the home we were in for the night [in Fort Smith]. The family were very pleasant and seemed anxious to do everything they could for us. I have had so little experience being entertained overnight at these meetings and it was quite a treat for me. Mrs. Queen drove us to the church, said she was coming back to the church later but didn't. She wasn't at the Presbyterian meeting last night either. She and her husband went to the Air

Raid demonstration put on by the Army at the high school. Little houses had been built and they were bombed and fired by incendiary bombs. Demonstrations and instructions were given on what to do incase of raids. I didn't blame them for wanting to see it. We started home about 4:00. I enjoyed the trip very much but was glad to get home and Jim seemed to be glad to have his cook back. We went to show "My Heart Belongs to Daddy." I didn't care very much for it.

Thursday, April 22. Baked a chocolate pie to take to the pie supper at the school house tonight for a War Bond Rally. The pies are to be auctioned off for War Bonds. We were a little late but in plenty of time for the auction. Lutie [Cunningham] had a program for entertainment before the sale began. I sat by Florence part of the time. Phil [Pilliips] said he wanted my pie but Bill Bartholemew bought it. When I asked him if I could have the container I had brought it in, he insisted that I take the pie too, so I took it and gave it to Phil. They sold over $26,000. Dr. Frank Riggall bought nearly $10,000 worth, paid $5,000 for 1 cake. But, of course, it is a fine investment and anyone who can buy that many is very lucky. Dr. Mock's [Will H.] buying ran pretty high, too. Florence bought several thousand, Jess Giles, Bill Bartholomew and Lee Jones also. Most of the others were in smaller amounts. Someone said the quota for Prairie Grove was 45 thousand. Mildred [Broyles] and I went with the intention of buying a 25 dollar bond for Study Club but the pies gave out. They told us we would have to get it at the Bank, anyhow.

Tuesday, June 1. When I went to the Red Cross this afternoon Tippy was in the hall when I went upstairs. He hadn't been home for several days. I spoke to him and went on. When we had finished working and I started home he was lying at the head of the steps. He got up and walked down the steps with me. I went to the shoe shop to get a pair of shoes Dolph [Helm] had fixed for me. Tip waited outside, then walked as close as he could get to me

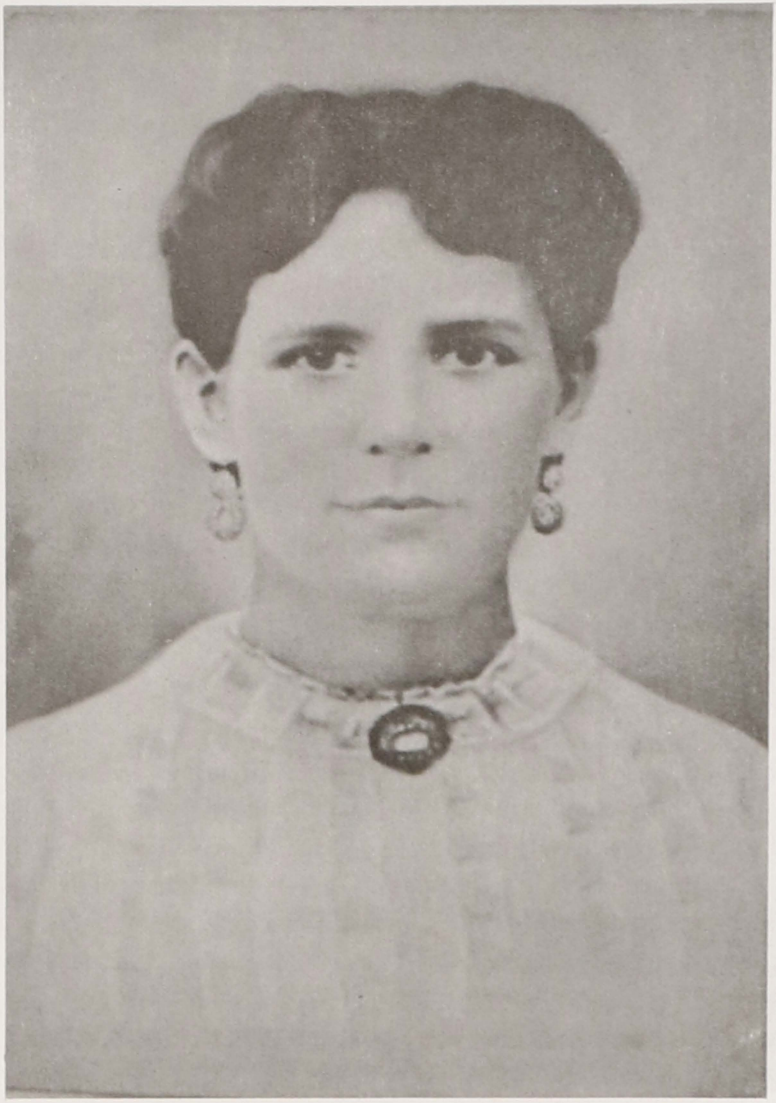
down the street to the Enterprise office. I left the copy for the ad. and there he was when I came out. Mr. Lee [Robert] said as we passed there, "Well, I thought that dog had forgotten you, he stays at Athal's [Gentry] so much, but I see he hasn't." He waited for me at Mama's and came on home with me, getting hardly a foot away from he the whole way.

Wednesday, June 2. Lucy [Cummings] and Miss Bess [Cummings] came by to take me to UDC at Madge's [McCuistion]. She makes such a personal issue of it I feel I have to go, tho each time I say I won't again. I'm tired of "eating my words" and it does seem that the need of that organization is past and gone. Only seven there, counting Madge and Mrs. Lake. Betsy [Campbell] takes up for the Japs to the point of making Miss Bess indignant. I took issue with her, but probably did no good. she is out of step with the whole war movement. thinks war is wrong, yet she is one of those who is so determined to keep the UDC going. Maybe she forgets that was war too. Jim called about 8:00, said the feature hadn't come. There was nothing to do but have a dark house. I was sorry but this time I knew I was not at fault, tho Arthur and Ruth came by and I felt that they were not so sure. Of course Arthur knew when I showed him the invoice and check stub.

Friday, July 9. This morning about 6:00 we were waked by a terrific noise on the highway. I knew it was machinery of some kind but thought it was some kind of road building equipment stalled or something. We heard later it was army equipment, tanks, tank destroyers, jeeps, etc. and the reason I thought it was stalled, it took so long to go through. Arthur heard it, dressed and went to the highway. We had a letter from Barry, he has slowed down on his writing. He has met a very attractive girl he said. Lives in Winter Haven, her name, Marjorie Harris. Told about his pilot, Lt. Kerr, making a landing with a flat tire. He handled it so expertly that the plane was only slightly damaged. Barry said he

wasn't in the plane himself at the time. Jim had a letter from Little Rock saying that the Board would have to get still tougher about tires, that the shortage is very acute.

Tuesday, July 13. Jim got up early and cut weeds, had some callers while we were eating breakfast. For a change it was about food Ration Books instead of tires and gas. He picked some blackberries. I had some checks to write and the copy for the Enterprise to get ready, then I went out to help him. We picked 6 qts. He bathed and dressed before dinner, then took a little nap. When he went to town he took some cream, only got 70 cents this time. I went to the Dehydratic demonstration at the Methodist church. The demonstration was very interesting and I didn't know dried food could look so attractive, especially after the "refreshing" as they call it. A Mr. Jones, an employee of the Southwestern Gas & Electric Co. (the heating is done with electric bulbs) put on the demonstration and Maxine Baggett, who is employed by them, assisted him. Mrs. Long and I went to town afterward. I needed some writing paper but nearly didn't find it. Ethel Speedlin said she had ordered it several times with no results. We went to Sterling [Drugstore] and I bought a box of stationery; it was what I could get and not what I wanted. Florence brought me a Service Flag, said she got one for herself and though anyone who could have three stars on it certainly should have one. It is very nice material. She wasn't satisfied until I put it up while she was here. I made some blackberry jelly and canned two qts. of blackberries. Jim brought a letter from Barry. He told about one of the engines going bad when they were up about 800 ft. Lt. Kerr turned back and made a beautiful landing, then the engine caught fire but went out when the engine died. He said they laughed about it after it was over but their eyes were pretty big when they looked at each other up there. Mama had sent him money to have some pictures made. He said if he ever got the chance he wanted to spend his own money and was going to try like everything to



Mamie Gilliam McCormick (Courtesy Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville).

Jim Parks, in about 1956 ((Courtesy Susan Parks-Spencer).

get it done. Jim said maybe if he didn't have to go to town in the morning he could get off to Fay. earlier. Every time he gets on the street about a dozen people stop him.

Saturday, August 14. Donald wanted two blouses washed so he and I put out a little washing. Letters from Barry and Joe. Barry is out of the hospital now but is still having his eyes treated. He said he had letters from Donald, James Fay [Parks], and Joe, "all three of his little brothers." He said the crew that was going to Shreveport ran into bad weather and had to land at Biloxi, Miss. Joe said his course is hard and he doesn't know how he will come out but to tell Barry and Donald that he was trying his best to make it for them. Donald was in his shorts and I was busy writing when someone knocked. Donald went to the door, came back directly and said it was the National Service man and he wanted to show me something, wanted to sell us some standees of Western stars. Donald thought it would be good advertisement so we ordered one of Roy Rogers and one of Don Barry. He's been in the army. Released when he reached 38 yrs. Told us all about his "cardiac" history. He told us good-bye and we thought he had gone but looked out the window and he and his wife were going to the barn. Old Clara Bell hasn't been well and Jim had called the new veterinarian. Mrs. Roth said she had never seen a cow and thought this was the time to correct that deficiency, I suppose. C. J. [Thomas] hadn't come with the cows, so they drove Jim and the doctor out to Cummings. Jim said she got on Mr. Douglas' [Cummings] horse and her husband took her picture. The doctor said that Clara Bell was run down and needed a tonic.

Tuesday, September 14. James Fay took some pictures of Barry and Michael [Parks]. Of Barry, Michael and Tip. Then Janet [Parks] took some of Barry, Jim, James Fay and Michael. Mama came up to tell Barry good-bye. Barry had expected to make a 10 something bus but called and learned that the first bus he could get would be around 1:00. They went on fairly early tho,

Barry was getting rather nervous afraid he wouldn't get to Avon Park in time. I asked him what they would do if he was late, he said they could "bust" him but he didn't think they would. When Jim and James Fay came back they said he could make the same time by taking a later bus, so they had time to eat lunch together without hurrying. James Fay asked me if I minded taking care of Michael while he and Janet took a cottage at Lake Wedington for a day or two of fishing and swimming. As if he needed to ask. Jim and I went to see "Tennessee Johnson" tonight. I liked it, I usually like historical pictures and I felt that I learned several interesting things from this one.

Wednesday, September 15. Jim went to Fay. to take and get films. James Fay and Janet got things ready for their trip. James Fay said that Jim wouldn't be back till 6:00 and I said "Oh, yes he will." When he phoned at 4:00 that he was ready to go James Fay said that I had won. He and Janet and the baby were lying out in the sun in the back yard w hen Jim called. Michael hadn't had her nap and I knew she would be cross before 6:00, her feeding and bedtime, so I decided to go with them and take her for the ride. Janet rode in the back on some blankets. James Fay stopped at the Lodge to get linens. The rates are $2.50 per day when you furnish your own and $3.00 if they furnish them. In the conversation with the woman there she spoke of his brother who had been there. James Fay said, "There were two of them." She couldn't get over it. Kept saying that the last one must have thought her crazy, the things she said to him about bringing a different girl with him every time. We drove up to the cottage with them and helped to take the things in. There is electric stove and refrigerator, bath with hot and cold water, really delux. We left them trudging down to the lake, said they wanted to get in some fishing before dark. Michael was so sleepy she could hardly stay awake to eat, went to sleep pretty quickly.

Friday, November 5. We had letters from Barry, Donald, and Joe. Lucky day. Joe said he hadn't written for some time, which was quite true. He had passed everything and expected to ship out the next Tuesday. He said he saw a car the other day with an Arkansas license and that he nearly hollered at the people in it. He said that if we needed his bonds for anything not to hesitate to use them, mighty sweet but it would have to be something mighty important for us to do that. He has two fifty dollar ones now. Donald's letter had some very important news, he has made Sergeant, we were so glad to hear it, he had about decided that there wasn't a chance right away, he said, and he was surely surprised and pleased.

Saturday, December 4. Letters from Barry, Donald and Joe. Barry says he is really busy. Joe can appreciate that more than the rest of us I guess. He knows something about what he going through and I'm sure his duties as class leader do give him something to think about. He says their P.T. is very "rugged" but that never was in better shape than now, "not a bit of fat." He is having fun in his History, has to straighten out the few isolationists nearly every day and that the teacher gives him good support occasionally. Joe said he was looking forward to Thanksgiving at home next year with all of us together again. He said that he had a wonderful dinner, sent the menu. He isn't doing too well in his flying, he said. Donald says we must try to go to Chicago, that if he should get a furlough, which was very unlikely, he thought he could find his way to Chicago. They are experimenting with sulpha– tablets, trying to combat colds and Donald says the treatment has made him feel rotten, headache and no pep. Dolly Anne [McCormick] came to bring our Christmas gifts, said if we were not going to be here Christmas we might as well have them now. She had a doll for Michael, as cute as can be. I asked Dolly Anne if she would go to town to get some gumdrops and little candles for the favors for the reception the UDC is

giving for the Service mothers and wives next Tuesday. Madge asked me to act as chairman. I first refused, there are so many things I have to do, didn't see how I could take on another but she called again and said I had to do it.

Monday, December 13. Letters from Barry and Joe. It had been more than a week since we had heard from Joe and I was certainly glad to get his letter. He told us that he had soloed for the first time the 5th and that he liked it, made a better landing than he expected, had been up solo three times. He hadn't received his shoes when he wrote. I'm anxious to know if he likes them He seemed to approve of our going to Chicago, said to go and take life easy for they would all be coming home before long and I would have a mob to cook for and as Grandmother would put it, "eat and sleep for if possible." Barry's was pretty short, he says he is terribly busy and can't get over the way he is studying which, he says, is a new experience for him. He had some pictures made but doesn't like them. Jim Woodruff gave Jim $3.00 yesterday which he said he owed Barry for work, Jim was going to put it in the bank but I appropriated it for the church offering. William Carl is visiting home folks, he has been wounded in the leg and is home to recuperate.

Sunday, December 19. I went to church, played for the Christmas program. The Methodists had dismissed for it and the church was full. The program went off very well tho Mr. Long lost his place and I thought he would never find it. We all were nervous because Joy had said so much about what a mess it would be because we hadn't practiced more. I rushed home, found Uncle Fay here. I had called him to come for the rolls before we got away. When I came in he laughed and said, "Well you caught me." He was eating some of the divinity fudge I had made to send the boys. I hadn't cooked it long enough and it was too soft but he liked it so much I wrapped several pieces in oiled paper for him, also some of the chocolate creams I had made. I hurried dinner,

put all the things that would spoil if left here in bags to take to Mama's, also the candy I had made for the boys. Irene [Dyer] said she would make some more fudge and pack it to send. Arthur came to take us to Westville to meet the train, Ruth and Dolly went too. We went by Mama's to tell her goodbye. The train was late and as Arthur had an appointment to see Dr. Russell [E. E.] on his way home we insisted that they not wait. Dolly Anne was disappointed not to see the train. The train was crowded but the conductor found seats for us in "circle" as he called it and we were quite comfortable. There was a group of soldiers gambling at a table across the isle, which according to my standards looked pretty bad. They were a rather unattractive lot of men to me. I couldn't help being a little shocked at their indifference to the fact that the wife of one of the soldiers had to stand nearly all the way to Kansas City. She must have had flu and looked so miserable we felt we should give her our seats. There was plenty of room on the seats with them but the only time she sat was while they were in the dining car. Maybe it is true that she and other civilians have no right to take a soldier's seat but I couldn't imagine one of my sons being so discourteous. The nicest looking soldier I saw on the train was from Mena, he came by looking for a seat and we moved together enough to give him a place by us. He said he had a temperature of 102 when he left home and did look sick, slept most of the way. His manners were excellent, made me proud of the old home state. Tho of course I know there are plenty of boys from there who are pretty awful. There was a girl sitting on the same seat, Jim kept sort of talking at her and finally I told her she might as well make up her mind that he was going to get acquainted with her. She was from Fort Smith and seemed relieved when she learned that we knew Dr. Stevenson and several others whom she knew quite well. We adopted each other and felt like old friends when we parted at K.C. She was visiting her fiancé and his family. She had met him at Camp Chaffee, she

works there. Another young woman who said she lived in Chicago got on at Joplin and sat down by us, she was nice too. Helped us after we got to K.C. to find our way around. He car was on the tracks and she was able to go to bed, she tried to get us into ours but the Red Cap said our reservation was on the train which was about 2 hours late. We were very tired when we finally got on but had an apartment and it was very comfortable. Neither of us had been in one before.

Sunday, December 26. No one got up very early, but James Fay was still in bed at 11:00. I opened the door so Michael could get in to him and she was climbing over his head in a few minutes. He opened his eyes and asked what time it was. When I told him he hopped out in a hurry. Donald didn't have much packing to do, had not brought many things with him. He left to catch his bus about 1:00. Jim and James Fay went with him. It seemed such a short time that he was here, but it also seemed almost too good to be true that he could come, and I felt like thanking God over and over for such an unexpected blessing. I had hoped to go to church this afternoon but when Janet called to see when the services were held, she was told at 4:00 and then it was too late for us to get there. I really was disappointed. I wanted to go to a city church. James Fay called to see about passes for the Quiz Kids. Said he hadn't been there for so long the pages might try to throw him out without passes. They told him to come on in the control room, which we did and it was very interesting. It was the first broadcast Jim and I had seen. We met Joe Kelly and a number of others after the program. Joe Kelly had on a toupee and didn't look like his pictures. I heard someone discussing it and they said that Paramount put it on him when the Quiz Kids were out there for their last picture. Going down on the elevator some kid said because the elevator was dropping so fast he had left his stomach on the 19th floor, that is where the broadcast is. His dad said, "Well it was empty, so that's alright." The building was Maratime

[Merchandise?] Mart once said to be the largest building in the world, but the Pentagon in Washington is said to have the greatest floor space in the world now, I think. Janet said she was hungry so we stopped at a restaurant. The theatre was only a few doors away, so we walked. They all teased me about going to a show on Sunday and not having gone to church. I told them that not going to church was not my fault. I didn't feel too good about going to the theatre but Jean had gone to considerable trouble to get tickets for "Oklahoma" and the only ones she had been able to get were for Sunday night. She is so sweet that I just couldn't hurt her by saying I wouldn't go. She stayed with Michael tonight while we were out. The theatre was packed, I didn't see a vacant seat. Life Magazine (Aug. ?) says, "A top musical on Broadway this summer has been the wonderful OKLAHOMA for which the ticket demand is greater than for any show in years." The music as very good, such catchy tunes and I had never seen anything like the ballet dancing, they seemed to literally to fly through the air, but it didn't seem to make much sense. I suppose musicals never do. The costumes were of varied and gorgeous colors and the light was intensely bright, simulating the bright, sunny skies of the real Oklahoma, I suppose. We enjoyed it very much and Jim and I were glad to have seen it but with our pocketbooks it seems rather fantastic to think that people pay $10.00 a seat to see it, as James Fay says many do in New York. We all wished many times that Donald might have stayed over for it, also the Quiz Kids broadcast. [To be continued.]

BOOK REVIEW

On the Trail of Bonnie and Clyde: Then and Now, Winston G. Ramsey, ed. (After the Battle Publications, Battle of Britain International Ltd., London, 2003. Photographs and index. Pp. 304. $59.95).

A fascinating and meticulously researched book by an English author. According to Winston G. Ramsey, the exploits of Bonnie and Clyde are much more followed in Europe than here in the United States. He wrote the book with the assistance of Marty Black and Jim Knight. Black assisted with local interviews and photographs. Knight has published a book of his own on the subject, *Bonnie and Clyde: A 21st Century Update*. Knight revisited most of the Northwest Arkansas sites and contributed photographs and interviews to Ramsey.

In reading the book I could not help but be reminded of a story my father told me about the Barrow gang's rampage through Northwest Arkansas in 1933. My father, Jeff Duty, had just entered law practice with his own father, John R. Duty, in Rogers. The two men were sitting on my grandfather's wide front porch one summer evening when a black Ford touring car turned into the long drive and parked in front of the house. Grandfather stood up and hurried down to the car, telling my father to remain where he was and not interfere. Grandfather talked animatedly with the men in the car for several minutes and then directed them to the drive turnaround. He stood watching them leave before rejoining Dad on the porch.

"Who was that," my father asked. Grandfather was flushed and obviously under stress. "Clyde Barrow's boys!" he replied. "What were *they* doing here?" Dad asked. "Trying to find a defense attorney before they get arrested." "What have they done now?" Dad continued questioning. "I don't want to know. I told them we are not the lawyers they want and advised them to go to

Oklahoma." And with that Grandfather went into the house to telephone the sheriff. Dad always said he and his father felt lucky to live to tell the tale.

With that in mind I eagerly opened the book and settled in for a rewarding experience. The anecdote recounted above may provide a clue to a little mystery contained on page 142 in the book. This is the beginning of a chapter titled "June 1933—Foray into Arkansas."

> [The Barrow gang has just fled from Texas and Kansas and are heading for the Arkansas border. Bonnie has been seriously injured in a firefight.] With Bonnie in great pain from the burns on her open would and lapsing in and out of consciousness, Clyde drove hell for leather across the state line into Oklahoma. Although she needed urgent medical attention, it appears that Clyde put this off as long as possible to avoid running the risk of being identified. From the early hours of Sunday, June 11 . . . the following three days are lost to history until the tired and worn-out party arrived in Fort Smith, Arkansas, early on Thursday morning. The only clue as to the gang's whereabouts during that period is that on a previous day Clyde had stolen a Ford V-8 over 250 miles away in Hutchinson, Kansas. Even W. D. Jones's confession statement throws little light on the missing days, merely saying that "the five of us wandered around for a while, eventually going to Fort Smith. We had a Ford V-8 sedan and a Ford V-8 roadster when we got to Fort Smith."

I will venture to suggest that they were wandering around in Northwest Arkansas and the sedan in question was for a time parked in my grandfather's drive, where its occupants gave Grandfather and Dad a great fright. Further evidence for this might be that they returned to Fayetteville from Fort Smith to rob

the Brown grocery on Lafayette Street.(The building was razed in 2003 for parking lots for Central Methodist Church.) It is noted in the book that the Barrow gang must have spent previous time in Northwest Arkansas reconnoitering the territory, since the small family business was "off the beaten path" and would be familiar only to someone who had scouted the area beforehand.

There are pictures, both historical and recent, and maps of this part of the state, plus extensive narratives and firsthand accounts of gunfights that took place in Alma, robberies, hijackings, and reports of machine-gun attacks. The action culminated with the robbery of the Commercial Bank of Alma. Meanwhile, Fayetteville police had put out an all-points bulletin for all towns along the Northwest Arkansas section of Highway 71. Although they received the bulletins, officials in Alma failed to connect the Fayetteville robbery with the crime wave in Alma. Clyde Barrow was not part of the "Alma action," because he was overseeing Bonnie's care and recovery in a motel outside of Fort Smith. He had sent for her sister to come and help, and Bonnie had begun to recover under her sister's care. When Clyde learned of what was happening along the Highway 71 corridor, he hid the women in some nearby woods and returned to Fort Smith to rescue his hapless partners. Needless to say, he was less than pleased. The bank robbery money was lost because the robbers abandoned the safe unopened, and only twenty dollars had been gained in the Brown grocery robbery, all due to the bungling of his accomplice W. D.

The Barrow gang activities in Arkansas might seem to have been more a scene of comedy than tragedy, but still people died. H. D. Humphrey, the Alma town marshal, died of injuries inflicted by a machine gun. It was subsequently established that the gang had stolen most of its sophisticated (for that time) weaponry from National Guard Armories. Humphrey is commemorated on an

elaborate plaque on a monument outside the Alma police headquarters.

All the escapade into Arkansas had accomplished was to buy time for Bonnie's wounds to heal. But the price was high. They had no money and W. D. Jones had to abandon one of their cars (the sedan). Packed together in the roadster, the gang headed for Oklahoma to replenish their armor by robbing the First Battalion Headquarters of Phillips University and the National Guard Armory at Enid, Oklahoma, on July 7, 1933. The newspapers from this time forward compared the Barrow gang with the Pretty Boy Floyd gang. A poster stated, "The Barrows are far worse than the Floyd Gang, because they go crazy and don't use their heads."

I will close with an excerpt from a poem written by Bonnie Parker, who, shortly before her death in 1934 wrote, "You've read the story of Jesse James, of how he lived and died. If you're still in need of something to read, here's the story of Bonnie and Clyde."

The book might be spoiled for the reader by indulging in too many quotes. There are over 270 pages of fast-packed action, wonderful illustrations, and photographs. This is guaranteed to capture and hold the reader's attention. The story begins with background in the 1920s and continues through the funerals of the gang in 1934. It brings to life an era long gone but not forgotten in our regional history.

Carolyn Duty Banks

The book is available from After the Battle, Church House, Church Street, London E14 3JA, England for $59.95 post paid. Payment by Mastercard or Visa and reference L040 are requested. More information is available on www.afterthebattle.com.

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